

Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9052

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 0214

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: CRITICISM OF FAHMY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD LEBANESE CRISIS

1. DURING CANDID CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS JANUARY 7, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN TAHSIN BASHIR EXPRESSED DEEP PESSIMISM CONCERNING AN EVENTUAL SOLUTION OF LEBANESE CRISIS AND REMARKED BITTERLY THAT, BY STAYING TOTALLY ALOOF FROM ALL PARTICIPANTS IN CIVIL STRIFE, GOE MERELY LEAVING FIELD WIDE OPEN TO SYRIANS, LIBYANS, IRAQIS, SOVIETS, AND OTHERS WHO PROMOTING OWN INTERESTS AT EXPENSE OF LEBANON. BASHIR COMMENTED THAT INCREDIBLE EGYPTIAN PASSIVITY IN SITUATION OF SUCH IMPORT, ESPECIALLY AS EGYPT IS LARGEST ARAB POWER, HAS PROVED COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

2. WHEN EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT GOE NON-INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANESE SITUATION APPARENTLY ENDORSED BY PRES SADAT HIMSELF, BASHIR STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT SADAT HAD INDEED ADOPTED POLICY OF NO DIRECT EGYPTIAN ENGAGEMENT IN LEBANESE SITUATION, BUT THAT DEPPRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY HAD ERRONEOUSLY INTERPRETED
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THIS POLICY AS BEING MANDATE TO DO NOTHING AT ALL. BASHIR

STATED THAT FAHMY SHOULD BE WORKING ENERGETICALLY IN
CONCERT WITH SAUDIS AND, IF POSSIBLE, SYRIANS TO ACHIEVE
POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF LEBANESE CONFLICT, RATHER THAN
MERELY SITTING ON HIS HANDS.

3. COMMENT: BASHIR'S EXPLICIT CRITICISM OF FAHMY REVEALS
MOUNTING FRUSTRATION WITHIN EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP OVER LACK
OF EGYPTIAN ABILITY TO INFLUENCE LEBANESE CRISIS WHEN SYRIAN-
ISRAELI CLASH IN LEBANON COULD DEAL FATAL BLOW TO SADAT'S
MODERATE POLICIES.
MAESTRONE

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